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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s: High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/49/L.32

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 3 (a), 3 (b), 4 and 10 of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.32, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, to be preceded by a one-day meeting of senior officials on 25 September 1995. In the event that any Member State offered to host the Meeting, the Trade and Development Board, at its spring session in 1995, would accordingly accede to that offer. The Meeting would carry out the mid-term global review, consider new measures as necessary, and report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(b) Decide to convene one session of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries in early 1995 at Geneva, for the duration of one week, in order to prepare for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting;

(c) Decide also to defray the cost of participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting and one representative from each least developed country to attend the Meeting referred to in paragraph (b) above through reallocation of existing resources of the regular budget, if necessary. Extrabudgetary resources should be explored for that purpose;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting and on the implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the programme of work

2. The above requests are related to major programme IV (International economic cooperation for development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes) subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 1/ and its proposed revisions (A/49/6 (Prog. 15)). They are also related to section 11A (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), programme 15 (Least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, and special programmes), subprogramme 1 (Least developed countries) of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would convene a High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, and one session of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries in early 1995 for one week at Geneva.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

Conference servicing costs

4. The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s is included in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1995 (A/49/32) and is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 26 September to 6 October. The change in venue from Geneva to New York would not require additional conference servicing costs.

5. However, the proposal to convene a High-level Intergovernmental Meeting in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995 would require that an exception be made to the principle established by General Assembly resolution 40/243, in which it was stipulated that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may

meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly; and that United Nations bodies shall meet at their respective established headquarters. In addition, the convening of the Meeting from 26 September to 6 October 1995 would not conform to the instruction of the Assembly, reaffirmed in the same resolution, that all its subsidiary organs complete their reports for the following session of the Assembly no later than 1 September.

6. The Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries would be provided with conference services from within the overall provision for conferences and meetings of UNCTAD in 1995 at Geneva. Therefore no additional resources would be required for conference servicing of this Meeting.

Other costs

7. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide to defray the cost of participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting and one representative from each least developed country to attend the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions through reallocation of existing resources of the regular budget if necessary, and extrabudgetary resources should be explored for that purpose. It is understood that this request would involve the payment of travel and subsistence expenses to representatives of the least developed countries, and as such would constitute an exception to the rules governing payment of travel and subsistence allowances in respect of members of principal organs of the United Nations and subsidiary bodies.

8. The cost of the participation of representatives of the least developed countries in the meetings specified above is estimated at $900,000.

9. With regard to funding the participation of representatives of least developed countries from the reallocation of existing resources of the regular budget, it would not be possible to reallocate resources from other areas of the regular budget as expenditures have been budgeted for programmed activities under the approved programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

10. However, in accordance with the proposal that extrabudgetary resources should be explored, the Secretary-General would propose to utilize unexpended extrabudgetary funds from the voluntary trust fund established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/228 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. This fund currently has an available balance of $410,000, which could defray part of the total cost of $900,000 for the participation of representatives of least developed countries in the above-mentioned meetings. Additional extrabudgetary resources amounting to $490,000 would have to be provided from voluntary contributions in order to fully cover the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries.

E. Summary

11. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.32: (a) an exception would have to be made to the principles established by the General Assembly in resolution 40/243, in which it was stipulated that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly; that United Nations bodies shall meet at their respective established headquarters; and that subsidiary organs should complete their reports for the following session of the General Assembly no later than 1 September; (b) an exception would have to be made to the rules governing the payment of travel and subsistence expenses to members of principal organs of the United Nations and subsidiary bodies; and (c) it would be the Secretary-General's intention to make available the unexpended extrabudgetary resources of $410,000 which were contributed for similar participation in the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. With regard to the outstanding amount of $490,000, the Secretary-General would seek additional extrabudgetary contributions to fund the participation of representatives of least developed countries in the above-mentioned meetings.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/48/6/Rev.1), vol. I.